

TRANSPORTATION OF MERCHANDISE INLAND TO MEXICO.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 699.]

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*A report from the First Comptroller, showing the mode in which the object specified can be accomplished, &c.*

FEBRUARY 3, 1835.

Printed by order of the House of Representatives.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

December 11, 1834.

On motion of Mr. Ashley,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing drawbacks on all goods, wares, and merchandise, of foreign growth and manufacture, subject to the payment of duties, transported by land through the interior of the United States to the Mexican provinces; and also upon merchandise of foreign manufacture, intended for Indian trade west of the Rocky Mountains, and within the supposed limits of the territory of the United States. And that the same committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a port of entry at Port Independence, in the county of Jackson, Missouri.

Attest:

W. S. FRANKLIN, *Clerk*.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

January 23, 1835.

SIR: In regard to the subject contained in the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 11th ultimo, accompanying your letter of the 8th instant, making inquiry on behalf of the Committee on Commerce of the House, whether, in the opinion of the department, any regulations can be conveniently prescribed without endangering, in too great a degree, the safe and regular collection of the revenue, for the

accomplishment of the objects proposed in the resolution, to wit, "the expediency of allowing drawbacks on all goods, wares, and merchandise, of foreign growth and manufacture, subject to the payment of duties transported by land through the interior of the United States to the Mexican provinces, and also upon merchandise of foreign manufacture, intended for Indian trade west of the Rocky Mountains, and within the supposed limits of the territory of the United States, and also with respect to the expediency of establishing a port of entry at Port Independence, in the county of Jackson, Missouri?"—I have the honor to transmit, for the consideration of the committee, the enclosed report, made to the department by the Comptroller, under date of the 20th instant, pointing out the mode in which the objects specified in the foregoing resolution can be accomplished without, it is conceived, injuriously affecting the interests of the revenue, should the committee deem it expedient to recommend the legislation of Congress upon this subject. I would respectfully suggest that the regulations enumerated in the Comptroller's report should be specifically provided for by law.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

LEVI WOODBURY,

*Secretary of the Treasury.*

HON. S. C. PHILLIPS,

*Member of the Committee on Commerce, House of Reps.*

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Comptroller's Office, January 20, 1835.*

SIR: You have referred to me, for my report thereon, a resolution of the House of Representatives, "that the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing drawbacks on all goods, wares, and merchandise, of foreign growth and manufacture, subject to the payment of duties, transported by land through the interior of the United States to the Mexican provinces; and also upon merchandise of foreign manufacture, intended for Indian trade west of the Rocky Mountains, and within the supposed limits of the territory of the United States. And that the said committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a port of entry at Port Independence, in the county of Jackson, Missouri."

Upon inquiry as to the manner in which the trade in question is intended to be carried on, I have been informed that the traders, in their purchases of goods, would confine themselves to the ports of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans, or would import them directly into St. Louis; that they would then be transported principally by water to the town of Independence, near the western boundary of the State of Missouri, and thence be conveyed eight hundred miles by land carriage to the city of Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico, where the Mexican Government has a custom-house, with the requisite officers to superintend the same, and where there is a consul of the United States.

According to the 75th and 92d sections of the collection law of 2d March, 1799, goods to be entitled to drawback are required to be exported to some foreign port or place, other than the dominions of some foreign State immediately adjoining to the United States, and the exportation must be made by sea, and in vessels of not less than thirty tons burden; but the 2d section of the act of 5th January, 1805, entitled "An act concerning drawbacks on goods, wares, and merchandise," makes an exception to the rule, by allowing the benefit of drawback on goods exported to any foreign port or place *situated to the westward or southward of Louisiana*.

It is believed that if the following regulations and conditions be prescribed to entitle goods transported to Santa Fe to the benefit of drawback, the safety of the revenue will be equally as well protected in such trade, as in the case of goods exported to the westward or southward of Louisiana.

1. The goods to be transported to Santa Fe in the original packages of importation, with the additional custom-house mark put on them—"For Santa Fe."

2. The goods to be accompanied by a certificate of the custom-house officers at the port where purchased, specifying the marks, numbers, and contents of the packages; value of articles paying ad valorem rates of duty; weight, gauge, or measure of articles paying specific duties; rates of duty, and amount of duties, and names of owners of the goods, in separate columns, respectively; together with the name of the vessel of importation, the date of importation, and place where from.

3. These certificates to be presented to the surveyor at St. Louis, at the time of the arrival of the goods at that place, who is to examine the packages, and compare them with the certificates; and, upon being satisfied that the contents of the packages are the same as they were at the time when and place where purchased, he is to endorse and sign a certificate accordingly, on the certificate of the custom-house officers, No. 2.

4. A similar course to be pursued when the goods arrive at the town of Independence, for which, and for other purposes, it may be deemed expedient that that place be made a port of entry, with a surveyor to reside thereat, with the same powers as those of the surveyors of the ports specified in the act of 2d March, 1831.

5. These several certificates to be presented to the consul of the United States at Santa Fe, on the arrival of the goods at that place, who is thereupon to examine the packages; and, upon being satisfied, upon evidence from the Mexican custom-house officers, that the contents thereof are the same as they were at the time and place of purchase, is to give a certificate to the owner of the goods, containing the following particulars: "I, A B, consul of the United States at Santa Fe, do hereby certify that the following packages have been brought to and deposited in the custom-house at this place, by (here insert the name of the person by whom brought, and, if he be not the owner, the name of such owner also,) and that, upon examination of them, and upon evidence received from the Mexican custom-house officers, they contain the identical goods which, according to the certificates of the custom-house officers, (here insert whether New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, or New Orleans,) were in them at the time when they left the said port of (here insert again whether

New York, &c.,) and that they were imported on the  
 , on board the

day of

| Name of vessel<br>of importation. | Date of importation. | From what place<br>made. | Marks. | Numbers. | Contents. | Value of articles<br>paying ad valorem<br>duties. | Weight, gauge,<br>or measure of<br>goods paying<br>specific duties. | Rates of duty. | Amount of duties. | Names of owners<br>of the goods. |
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SANTA FE, *January* , 1835.

A B, *Consul of the United States.*

6. The drawback to be paid to the owner of the goods, or to his order, provided the duties on the same shall have been previously received by the collector on the presentation at the custom-house, at the port or place where the goods were purchased, of the certificate issued thereat, together with the consular and other certificates; all of which certificates are thereupon to be cancelled by obliterating the signatures thereto, and are to accompany the account of the collector, in which a charge for the said drawback may be made, together with the receipt of the party to whom payment may be made.

7. The certificates which may be issued by the consul of the United States at Santa Fe, to be regularly recorded by him in a book to be kept for that especial purpose.

The documents referred to are returned herewith.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

JOS. ANDERSON, *Comptroller.*

Hon. LEVI WOODBURY, *Secretary of the Treasury.*